

## **Creating the Kingdom of God Takes a Voice! –Your Voice!**

**Luke 17:20-21 Matthew 6:33 Isaiah 9:6-7 Luke 8:1 Luke 9:2  
Luke 10:9 Matthew 6:10 1 Corinthians 4:20**

**A Prologue to a message about what is happening in our streets today:**

**C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, The Magician's Nephew, Chapter 8!**

Aslan the Lion sings the Kingdom of Narnia into existence!

In the darkness something was happening at last!

A voice had begun to sing.

It seemed to come from all directions at once.

It was deep enough to be voice of the earth itself.

There were no words!

Hardly even a tune!

Yet it was, beyond comparison, the most beautiful sound ever heard.

Then 2 wonders happened at the same moment.

The voice was suddenly joined by other voices.

The bleak darkness overhead—all at once—was blazing with stars.

And they also began to sing.....

**Hidden away nearby**—the evil Witch understood.

Her mouth was shut.

Her lips were pressed together.

Her fists clenched.

She knew this new singing world was filled with Magic stronger than hers.

She hated it!

She would have smashed the whole world to pieces if only the singing would stop.

But it wouldn't stop!.....

Then everyone saw the Singer!

A lion! Huge, shaggy, bright, stood facing the risen sun—  
Its mouth wide open in song—only 300 yards away.

Then the song changed—became softer— more lilting than the song by which the lion  
had called up the stars and the sun.

*Narnia!—Awaken!*

*Narnia!—Love.*

*Think. Speak.*

*Be walking trees!*

*Be talking beasts!*

*Be divine waters!*

Out of the trees, wild people stepped forth!

Gods and goddesses of the wood!

With them came fauns and satyrs and dwarfs.

Out of the river rose the river god with his Naiad daughters.

And all these and all the beasts and birds in their different voices—  
low or high or thick or clear, replied:

*“Hail, Aslan!—the Lion!*

*We hear and obey!*

*We are awake.*

*We love.*

*We speak.*

*We think.*

*We know.....*

**Now there’s a fable!**

Which is able!—to turn the tables

And make the Kingdom-of-God

of which we are capable—

If we are wise.....brave....and faithful!....

Even so, Jesus always said that to prevent the

Kingdom of God from coming—**opposition** would arise!

What we call today—backlash!

Jesus described weeds secretly growing among the wheat!

Jesus called out “That Fox!”, Herod, the brutal, earthly King!

Jesus taught us to pray to be *delivered from evil!*

In the wilderness he wrestled with invisible, destructive energy that wanted to undo him!

So—there is no time to lose—!

Which is why Jesus said—Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

Add your voice to all the voices which are now singing  
a new world into existence!

Fill the old world’s bleak darkness with stars!

What does that old world look like? Sound like? Feel like?

First it is a world filled with names.

The names are people who lived in the old world.

Who died in the old world.

Say their names:

George Floyd, Minneapolis

Arnaud Arberry, Georgia

Breonna Taylor , Louisville

Michael Brown, Ferguson

Treyvon Martin, Florida

Here in Kansas City, this week, marchers downtown carried signs  
with the names of young black men—Ryan Stokes and Cameron Lamb.

For years, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has been trying to obtain an  
FBI investigation of Ryan Stokes’ killing by police in the Crossroads Arts District

I first heard about Cameron Lamb’s death from his cousin, Taylor Brown,  
the Director of Kids Team Up for Art, now Spread Out for Art.

Say their names.....

It is becoming clear that various distractions will be created—  
and excuses made— to take the focus off these names and other names like them.

So keep saying their names!

If you stand for something.

You won't fall for anything.

We cannot fall for these specific distractions:

- All Lives Matter. Let's be clear.  
It is clearly understood that all lives matter.  
Of course all lives matter. We know that.  
But right now, in this situation, Black Lives Matter.  
All Lives Matter is a distraction.  
Jesus talked about a shepherd with 100 sheep.  
One was in trouble. Jesus didn't say, "The 99 sheep matter too. He didn't have to.  
He went looking for the one that was in trouble.

### **A second distracting excuse:**

- There are some bad policemen. Most are good.  
Please stop saying that. We know this.  
This is not about good or bad policemen.  
It is clearly understood there are many good policemen and policewomen.  
Some came into our building a few months ago when a homeless person was having a scary mental health crisis.  
They did not come in with their guns drawn.  
They came in with their hearts and minds open.  
Some police officers came here to our church last fall to give us active shooter training.  
In fact, both teams were part of a crisis intervention and education policy....  
This is not about a binary choice of good and bad police.  
And even when it is, in specific cases, that's for the law, courts & juries to decide.  
Let the police themselves work some of this out amongst themselves.  
The good ones know who the bad ones are.  
Our newspaper in Kansas City has said it's time for them to step up.  
No—this is about policing policies and practices.  
Search and read "How A New kind of Policing Changed America's Most Dangerous City—Camden, New Jersey."  
This is about moving from the old, worn out policy of **Law and Order** to a new world of **Protect and Serve**.

No matter what we call it—reform of reallocation or defund or dismantle or reconstruct or repurpose—transformation must come.

The backlash will tell us that we want to get rid of the police and let crime go wild.

Be alert to this excuse NOT to start a dialogue on how to change the way in which we police and how we allocate public safety and public health

### **Say their names.**

They died in a Law and Order world of choke holds—driving while black—jaywalking while black—sleeping in a drive thru while black, being home while black when police crash through the wrong door, militarizing the police, lack of civilian control, lack of accountability.

We are seeking a new world.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

### **Jesus also said The Kingdom of God is within you.**

#### **Meaning!—we have inner work to do.**

The inner work we have to do right now is: Take anti-blackness out of our hearts.

Anti-blackness is killing us.

Anti-blackness is killing black people first.

Anti blackness is also killing white people.

We need to take the anti blackness out of ourselves first.

In her path making book, *White Fragility*, Robin Diangelo, an anti-racism educator, mentions many black colleagues, friends and loved ones, but then confesses her own anti-blackness toward black persons in general when “I feel fear, contempt, disdain “when I pass black strangers on the street, see stereotypical depictions of black people in the media, hear thinly veiled warnings and jokes passed between white people....these feelings, which I need to examine, can and do seep out without my awareness and hurt those whom I love.”

When have we abandoned white solidarity and challenged another Caucasian who made some thinly veiled or overt remark about black inferiority?

In the Kingdom of God we are seeking—anti-blackness receives the 12 step treatment of self examination, thorough and searching inventory of moral failure. Clean house, remove anti-blackness. Make amends for wrongs done.....

**There is no such thing as a black race or a white race anyway.**

We are 99.9 percent the same. There is one human race.

We all have the same ancestral mother and father, in current anthropological knowledge, some man and some woman who lived in East Africa. We all come from them and from there.

Some of our surface exterior features changed along the way, over a few million years.

We are all Homo sapiens sapiens. .

We know that we know. That's consciousness.

We now need to make a leap into a global consciousness. Also called God consciousness.

We are all God's children.

Race is a way to construct a false reality in which white people are dominant and people with darker skin are unequal.

This must come to an end.

The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent.

Say their names.....Think of yourself as the only one who knows their names.

Think of yourself as the only one who knows that you know.

Think of yourself as the only one who is available to come to the side of those whose backs are against the wall.

Think of the Kingdom of God as a reality that's looking for new territory inside of you!

You are the one who must sing!—act!— think!—speak!—march!—  
Dance! Love! —the Kingdom into existence!

I'm going to close with two action plans.  
One is a march. The second is a prayer.

On the Anniversary of the Dr. King's March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963, there is going to be another March on Washington. Let's support it in whatever we are able. March. Send a donation. Help someone else go if you can't. Spread the word. Help.

Non-violent protest with a critical mass of people is the best way we can "Say Their Names" and especially the name George Floyd.

Saint George! The Dragon! who couldn't breathe, yet breathed fire on the evil of racism.

Secondly, I would like to be found wrong—but I doubt that I will be wrong—that an effort to start the backlash is going to happen this Saturday, at the President's rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the day after the historic anniversary of the end of slavery, known as Juneteenth.

You can do two things.

First, sometime this week, take out your phone or open your computer and search *JFK Speech, June 11, 1963*. The night before Saint Medgar Evers was murdered. See how a real President responded to a national crisis of police brutality and racism in America in a way that healed and inspired.

It's about 14 minutes long. Try and find the time.

It was the night before Medgar Evers was murdered.

Secondly, and I hope this will be happening in other places besides Kansas City, but this coming Friday, Juneteenth, at 7 pm, a socially distanced, masked Pray on Troost event will be held here in Kansas City.

For those of you who don't know Kansas City, Troost is the historic dividing line of racial segregation in the city.

People are being asked to show up in anti-Covid 19 masks, for any period of time we can along the ten mile sidewalk along Troost.

Take a piece of white tape and place one word on your mask—unity, love, justice, heal, George, Breonna, whatever word you wish, and stay as long as you can. 5 minutes. 8 minutes, 46 seconds. 30 minutes. A whole hour.

If we can do it here—and you can do something similar wherever you are.

I think we can awaken the Kingdom of God.

**We might even hear the lion singing:**

*America!—Awaken!*

*America!—Love.*

*Think. Speak.*

*Be walking trees!*

*Be talking beasts!*

*Be divine waters*

**We might even find ourselves praying out loud—George! George!**

*We hear and obey!*

*We are awake.*

*We love.*

*We speak.*

*We think.*

*We know.....*

Rev Scott Myers, Westport Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri

June 14, 2020

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